



Newsletter

Term 2, Week 2, 2025

8 May 2025

Manukau Christian School

Dear Parents and Friends of MCS,

Welcome back to school! We hope those who were able to enjoy family holidays over the break had a refreshing time.

It's a busy term ahead. Our Year 11 students are already sitting their Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics and English exams, and many AS and A Level courses are now approaching the halfway mark as students work steadily toward their end-of-year external assessments.

This term also brings a number of exciting events. Culture Day will take place in Week 5, always a much-anticipated highlight with food, dress, and performances celebrating the wonderful diversity within our school community. Our senior students will be fundraising for their end-of-year graduation dinner, so expect to see sausage sizzles and bake sales throughout the term. We're also looking forward to hosting our second Senior Ceilidh a joyful way to celebrate the end of Term 2 after mid-year examinations.

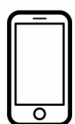


Equipping for Every Good Work

At Manukau Christian School, we want to train students not just for exams, but for life—real life under the lordship of Christ. Two passages in Scripture capture this vision powerfully:

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” — Ephesians 2:10

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. — 2 Timothy 3:16–17



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From the Principal's Desk

These verses show us two things: first, that God has created His people *for good works*; and second, that *Scripture equips us* to live them out.

But what exactly are these “good works”?

Too often, Christians read these passages and immediately think of things like preaching, evangelism, or reading the Bible. But Paul doesn't limit “good works” to these so-called spiritual activities. The good work of raising children, changing nappies, managing a household, repairing a car, teaching a class, or writing software—all these are included when done in faith and for the service of others. Scripture equips us not just to be better churchgoers, but better builders, bakers, mothers, and mechanics.

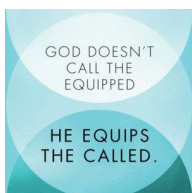
Much of modern Christianity still carries the assumption that full-time Christian ministry is God's preferred path, and that other callings are merely secular or second-tier. But this is a distortion. It reflects a leftover medieval mindset, where the “serious spiritual Christians” were celibate monks, nuns, priests, or hermits—while ordinary vocations were considered spiritually inferior.

The Reformers rejected this false dichotomy. Martin Luther emphasized that all legitimate callings are holy when done in faith. He famously said that God milks the cows through the vocation of the milkmaid. In other words, every good and faithful task performed by men and women is one of the ordinary means by which God expresses His providential care for the world.

How can anyone remain interested in a religion which seems to have no concern with nine-tenths of his life?”

— Dorothy L. Sayers,
Why Work?

At MCS, we are committed to helping our students develop a robust Christian worldview—one that sees all of life as spiritual because **Christ is Lord over all**. While we certainly hope some of our students will become preachers or missionaries, we know most will not. And that is not second best. We want our graduates to be equipped for every good work—whether in business, hospitality, teaching, plumbing, medicine, the arts, or parenting.



By grounding them in Scripture and calling them to excellence in all they do, we pray that our students will see their future vocations as sacred assignments. In every role, they can live fruitful, faithful, kingdom-advancing lives—*equipped for every good work*.

From the Principal's Desk

Year 8—Information Evening for 2026 Enrolment

A reminder to all parents of Year 8 students: entry into Year 9 at MCS is not automatic. Even current students must reapply, as places are limited and demand for our Year 9 class is high. Our enrolment process helps ensure that students are a good fit for the structured, high-expectation environment of MCS high school.

All applicants will sit an entrance test, and entry decisions are based on a range of factors including academic readiness, attendance, behaviour, and alignment with our Christian vision.



We warmly invite all interested families to our Year 9 Information Evening to be held in the church on **Thursday 5th June at 7:00pm**. Light refreshments will be served, and we hope to have a few MCS alumni share about the benefits of their high school experience.

If you are considering high school at MCS for 2026, this meeting is essential. We look forward to seeing you there.

Educational Thoughts

We are excited to launch a new section on our school website called *Educational Thoughts*. This blog will be a space where MCS staff reflect on the thinking that shapes our teaching—covering everything from classroom practice to virtue formation to the distinctively Christian worldview that undergirds our approach.



Our first article, now live, explains why we're taking this step: to share how Manukau Christian School has held fast to truth in an age of educational drift—and why we believe Christian education must be more than faithful; it must be a light to the world.

You can find *Educational Thoughts* under the Our School tab on our website. We encourage you to have a read and share it with others who care about the future of Christian education in New Zealand.

Scott Kennedy
Principal

Dates to Remember

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5	6	7	8 Y3 Swimming (1:30pm) Y4 Swimming (2:00pm)	9 Mother's Day Y1-7 (1:10pm)
12	13	14	15 Y3 Swimming (1:30pm) Y4 Swimming (2:00pm)	16
19	20	21	22 Photolife Photos Y3 Swimming (1:30pm) Y4 Swimming (2:00pm)	23 Assembly Y1-7 (8:50am)
26 Corban Art Estate Y6 and 7	27 Y1 and 2 Gymsport (1:30pm)	28	29 Y3 Swimming (1:30pm) Y4 Swimming (2:00pm)	30 Culture Day Y1-7 Assembly (8:50am) Y8-13 Assembly (1:20pm)
2 JUNE KING'S BIRTHDAY (School Closed)	3 High School Mid Year Exams Start Y1 and 2 Gymsport (1:30pm)	4	5 Y3 Swimming (1:30pm) Y4 Swimming (2:00pm) Year 8 Parent Info Evening (7:00pm)	6
9	10 Y1 and 2 Gymsport (1:30pm)	11	12 Y3 Swimming (1:30pm) Y4 Swimming (2:00pm)	13 Assembly Y1-7 (8:50am) 14 June Ceilidh (7:00pm)
16	17 Y1 and 2 Gymsport (1:30pm)	18	19	20 MATARIKI (School Closed)
23	24	25	26	27 Assembly Y1-7 (8:50am) Assembly Y8-13 (9:20am) Term ends 12.30pm

Enrolment and Withdrawal

If you know of anyone who wishes to enrol, please encourage them to do so early. We currently have waiting lists for every year level.

Conversely, if you are withdrawing your child, please note that the school requires **a full term's notice** (10 school weeks) if you intend to withdraw your child. If you do not provide sufficient notice, you **will** be invoiced for the next term's fees.

Mothers' Day Celebration

We look forward to celebrating our mums on Friday afternoon. A housekeeping note: the upper carpark is for parents whose children are in **Years 1, 2 and 3**.

General Notices

Culture Day

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, we're looking forward to celebrating another Culture Day on **Friday 30th May 2025**. It's always a special occasion where students are encouraged to wear traditional dress, bring along a plate of food that reflects their heritage, and enjoy performances from fellow students during our two special assemblies.



Culture Day is a wonderful opportunity to honour the variety of cultures represented in our school—and to glorify God by celebrating unity in our diversity. We can't wait to see the colour, joy, and community spirit this day always brings!

Help Please!

Please help us keep our students safe. Please help us prevent gridlock around the carpark when getting in to and out of the school grounds. If you ask a family friend or grandparent to collect your child at the end of the day, **please make sure** they understand our carpark rules for afternoon collections.



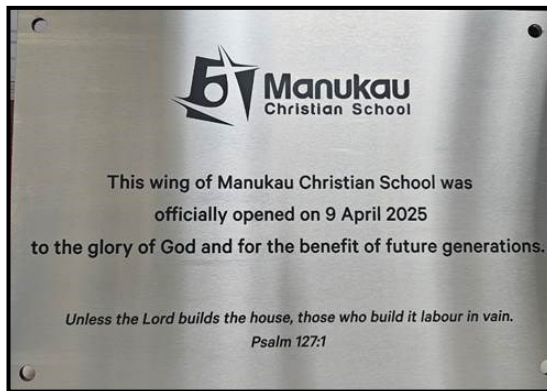
- Carparks are for parents of **Year 1-3 only**. Display your parking token when you enter the carpark in the afternoons.
- If your youngest child is in Year 4 and up, **park on the road** and walk in.
- There is a **one way** traffic layout; DO NOT drive against the direction arrows.
- If no space is available, DON'T stop. Drive OUT of school, and come in at the gate again.
- **Please mind your speed**, especially in the high school carpark by the preschool. We have received complaints of vehicles speeding in and out of our carparks. Please help us keep all children safe.
- Please remember that **accessible (mobility) carparks** are for users with mobility cards only. If you park in the mobility carpark, please display your card. These carparks are vital for parents who have limited mobility and students who need to park close to the steps and have extra space for equipment.



Parent helpers: Can you help monitor Year 1-3 parking tokens? Please contact us.

School Happenings

Opening of New Senior Wing



What a joy it was to officially open our new school wing! We give heartfelt thanks to God for His provision, and we're so grateful to Mr Jono Willis, Mr Voschezang and his amazing team, along with all those who generously gave their time, energy, resources and donations to bring this project to life.

As part of the celebration, a new plaque was unveiled to dedicate the space to God's service. Mrs Everitt was also gifted a special hamper filled with supplies for the new classroom—a small token of appreciation to help her settle in. It was wonderful to see all our students walking through afterwards, sharing in the excitement of this new chapter for our school.



Alumni Dinner

The bonds formed during school years means former students regularly keep in touch. A number of alumni enjoyed a pot-luck dinner at the start of Term 1. From left to right: Matthew Shallard, Oliver Kuik, Isabella D'Mello, Riana Brown, Kanak Ahuja, Jessica Goodwin and Rebekah Shallard.



School Happenings

Year 1—Letterland Day



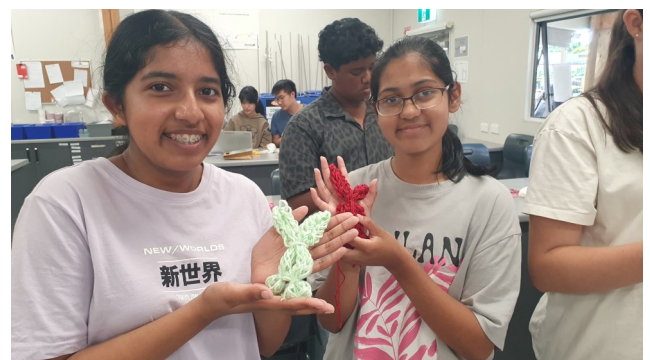
Our Year 1s have been ‘travelling’ through Letterland, a phonics programme that combines lively characters, funny stories, catchy chants and action movements! This culminated in a full day of Letterland-themed phonics activities, complete with dress up, picnic and souvenirs! We thank God, our dedicated teachers and parents for their hard work, as all our Year 1 children can now read!



School Happenings

High School Modules

High school students enjoy modules on Friday afternoon. Term 1 included Science Experiments for Juniors, CAD, Cooking, Games, Crotchet, and Outdoor Education. How mesmerising to watch hot, foamy, elephant toothpaste squeeze out of a glass flask in our science lab! Or watching a 'volcano' erupt! Thank you, high school students, for demonstrating your knowledge and enthusiasm for science to the primary school students.



School Happenings

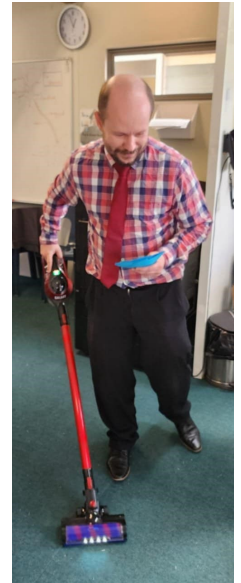
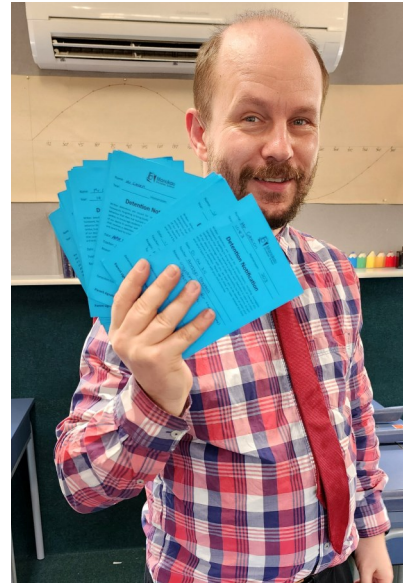
April Fools' Day

For April Fools' Day, the high school students gave Mr Gibson detention! Reasons included:

- “For always talking about KFC in class (economics) and never actually giving us any”
- “For telling too many bad jokes. They cause too much laughter and therefore waste time. Not efficient!”
- “His rebellious taste in hair cuts, from a mullet to a ‘monk cut’ ”

Mr Gibson was required to vacuum the staffroom for his detention.

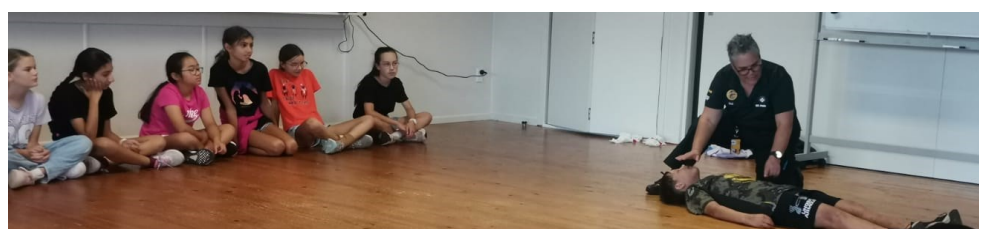
The administration staff were also alarmed to find that Mr Kennedy had wasted away while listening to podcasts in his office...! ... Their concern turned to relief when Larry Lazybones informed them he was simply on practicum for a Master of Education from Massey University.



Year 7—St John First Aid



We were privileged to welcome a St John paramedic to teach the Year 7 students about basic first aid practices and how to respond in an emergency. We learned DRSABCD (Danger, Response, Send for Help, Airway, Breathing, CPR, Defibrillation). Our students role-played as both the patient and first aid responder, learning to use the recovery position, CPR, and treating minor cuts and burns.



School Happenings

Past Principal's Visit—Pete Slaney

Mr Pete Slaney, former Principal of MCS (2018-2022) came back to visit with our teachers and enjoy some morning tea. It was a wonderful time of fellowship as former Principal, Mr Shane Kennedy, and our own Mr Scott Kennedy, were also present.

Occasions like these prompt us to thankfulness for God's faithfulness and sustained blessing over the school, and remember our common calling to deliver the gospel wherever it may be.



In Memory of Richard Flinn

It is with sadness that we share the news of the passing of Mr Richard Flinn, a much-loved former board member of Manukau Christian School, who went to be with the Lord on Monday, 21st April.

Richard made an immense contribution to the life of our school. He served faithfully on the board, offering wisdom, clarity, and strong Christian leadership. His heart for families was evident in the courses he ran for parents, and he invested generously in the lives of our students through the modules he led—always encouraging them to grow in godly character.

We give thanks to God for Richard's life and legacy and extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Lesley, and to their wider family.

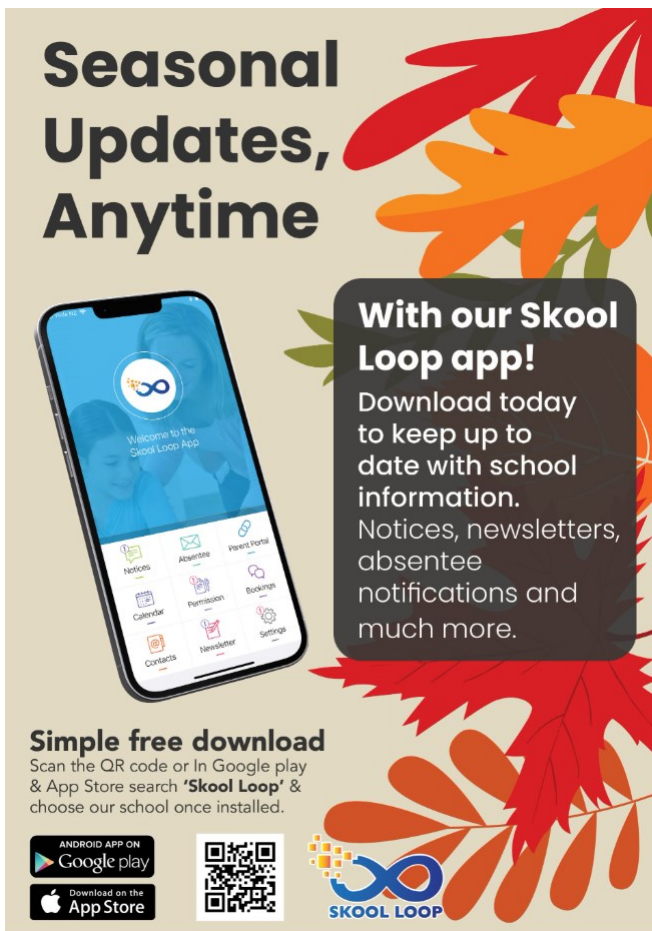
A New Arrival!

Little Kristin du Plessis has arrived safely!

We praise God for his protection and provision, and rejoice with Mrs du Plessis and her family as they welcome this precious gift into their lives.



Community Notices



Seasonal Updates, Anytime

With our Skool Loop app!
Download today to keep up to date with school information. Notices, newsletters, absentee notifications and much more.

Simple free download
Scan the QR code or in Google play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose our school once installed.

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PIPS—Parents in Prayer

Parents, if there is one thing you can do to assist us in educating and discipling students, please pray. Prayer moves mountains, changes hearts and breaks barriers. You are welcome to join our weekly prayer meeting on Fridays at 8:30am in the church prayer room. No meetings on the last day of term.

Considering Teaching?

Parents or past students, if you are interested in teaching, Mr Kennedy would like to chat with you. Please ring the office for an appointment.

Miscellaneous

- ♦ We are still collecting stickers from **Yummy Fruits**. The school gets sports gear for students from this collection.
- ♦ Please ask your child to check the **Lost Property** bin in the junior foyer area.



If you are looking for a preschool that sets up each child for future learning success then look no further!

- Passionate and dedicated teachers
- Multi-cultural team that brings a range of God-given strengths
- Individual learning pathway to develop future growth of your child
- Unique **Pathfinders Programme** for up to 6 year olds: supporting your child to be school ready

Contact Covenant Kids on 09 269 1048 or email covenantkids@mcctrust.nz.

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD
AND PROCLAIM HIS GREATNESS.
LET THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW
WHAT HE HAS DONE.

— Psalm 105:1 —



PRAYER POINTS



Give thanks:

- for the new wing—giving more space to our high school classes
- for strong interest in our Year 9 class for 2026



Please pray:

- for our Year 11 students in their English and Mathematics exams
- for our Year 7 to 13 students preparing for mid-year examinations
- for spiritual protection of our school

Scripture

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

TERM DATES 2025

Term 1	3 Feb to 11 Apr 2025
Term 2	28 Apr to 27 Jun 2025
Term 3	14 Jul to 19 Sep 2025
Term 4	6 Oct to 12 Dec 2025 (Years 1 to 7)
	1 Oct to 9 Dec (Years 8 to 10)
	1 Oct to 21 Nov (Year 11)

Optional: Leaver's Trip: 24-27 November 2025.

School finishes at 12:30pm on the last day of each term.

HOUSE POINTS

Wilberforce:	19	Calvin:	18
Te Wiremu:	24	Tarore:	26

